

CLAIMS

The following is claimed:

1. A fuel injector assembly, comprising:
a body portion that houses fuel injector components;
an electrical interface portion supported by the body portion; and
at least one deformable connector member supported on the interface portion, the deformable connector member having at least one edge that is adapted to penetrate an insulation covering on an electrical conductor to thereby electrically couple the connector portion to the electrical conductor.
2. The assembly of claim 1, including a plurality of connector members, each comprising a barb of flexible metal material.
3. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the electrical interface portion at least partially extends outwardly and away from the body portion and the deformable connector member is outside of the body portion.

4. A fuel injector assembly, comprising:
 - a body portion that houses fuel injector components;
 - an electrical interface portion supported by the body portion;
 - at least one deformable connector member supported on the interface portion; and
 - at least one conductor having an insulation covering on a conductive portion, the deformable connector member having at least one edge that is penetrated through the insulation covering and making electrical contact with the electrical conductor.
5. The assembly of claim 3, including a plurality of connector members, each comprising a barb of flexible metal material.
6. The assembly of claim 3, including a securing member placed over the conductor and the connector member.
7. The assembly of claim 5, wherein the securing member comprises plastic that is molded over the conductor and the connector member.
8. The assembly of claim 5, wherein the securing member comprises a seal.
9. The assembly of claim 5, wherein the securing member comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of plastic, foam or silicone.
10. The assembly of claim 3, wherein the conductor comprises a flexible conductor cable.
11. The assembly of claim 3, including a plurality of conductors and a corresponding plurality of deformable connector members.

12. A method of making an electrically conductive connection between an electrical interface on a fuel injector that has at least one deformable connector member and an electrical conductor, comprising the steps of:

positioning a portion of the conductor near the deformable connector member;
and

deforming the deformable connector member to establish an electrically conductive connection between the electrical interface and the conductor.

13. The method of claim 12, including crimping the deformable member onto the conductor.

14. The method of claim 12, including at least partially penetrating the conductor with a portion of the deformable connector member to establish an electrically conductive coupling through the deformable connector member.

15. The method of claim 12, including covering the deformable connector member and an associated portion of the conductor after performing the deforming step.

16. The method of claim 15, including molding a plastic material onto the connector member and the associated portion of the conductor.

17. The method of claim 15, including placing a seal over the connector member and the associated portion of the conductor.